

Let's Talk Wine: Gallo and Boisset a wine power couple

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The late Margrit and Robert Mondavi were the first Napa Valley power couple in the wine industry. Today, Gina Gallo and Jean-Charles Boisset are the leading wine couple (they married in 2009) and have just received the Robert Mondavi Wine & Food Award for their contributions to the wine world and the hospitality industry.

The award, now in its 18th year, is given with great appreciation to individuals whose vision and leadership have advanced the wine and food industry. The Collins College's Robert Mondavi Wine and Food Award has paid tribute to some of the industry's most accomplished men and women, beginning with its first honoree in 1999, for whom the award was named.

Gina Gallo, senior director of winemaking for the Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery, began her journey as a winemaker when she was just 10 years old, tending the gardens with her father and grandfather, and picking fruits and vegetables that her mother and grandmother would use for fresh, seasonal family meals. Gina spent her high school summers working at the Gallo family's winery, later earning her bachelor's degree from Notre Dame de Namur University. Following in her grandfather's footsteps, she found her true calling as a winemaker. In 1990, she became an apprentice winemaker at the Gallo family's experimental micro-

winery in Modesto, California, while she also studied winemaking at the University of California at Davis. Gina is a board member of the American Farmland Trust, which works to preserve agricultural land, and Taste of the NFL, which raises funds and awareness for food banks and anti-hunger initiatives. Gina has also been honored with several awards and accolades. She was a 2016 inductee to the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food and Beverage in America. Additionally, she was named one of the Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink by Fortune magazine, as well as being named No. 17 on Decanter magazine's "Power List" of the most important men and women in wine. Gina also received an honorary Doctorate in Oenology from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island in 2008. (www.gallo.com)

Jean-Charles Boisset, proprietor of the Boisset Collection, was born into the world of wine in the village of Vougeot in Burgundy, France, amid centuries-old vineyards. Jean-Charles continues the entrepreneurial spirit of his parents who founded the company in 1961. He has implemented organic and biodynamic farming at all of the family's estate vineyards in Burgundy and California, and instituted the concept of "viniculture" — redefining the company's traditional role to encompass a close and active interest in all aspects of winegrowing to ensure premium quality and sustainable farming practices. He has energized the California wineries in the family collection, breathing new life into DeLoach Vineyards in the Russian River Valley, Raymond Vineyards in the Napa Valley and most recently, Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma Valley, which was California's first premium winery. In addition, he established and expanded his namesake JCB Collection, which has locations in San Francisco, Yountville, St. Helena, the Russian River Valley and Vougeot, France. His leadership at each property has harvested numerous awards for the quality of winemaking, historical preservation and innovative, educational guest experiences. (www.boissetcollection.com)

Let's toast Gina Gallo and Jean-Charles Boisset for their love and devotion for both wine, food and family.

Look for their wines at your favorite wine
retailer and restaurant.

Cheers!